

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 255607
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DRAFTED BY S/S:PTARNOFF:GB

APPROVED BY MR. TARNOFF

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 255607

NODIS

FOL RPT ROME 17379 ACTION SECSTATE 25 OCT 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T ROME 17379

NODIS

NEA FOR VELIOTES; EUR FOR BARBOUR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, EG, IT

SUBJECT: MIG-21 MAINTENANCE

REF: STATE 247444 AND 252670

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH O'MALLEY, LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT SERVICE VICE PRESIDENT NEUDOERFFER, AND DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR LA ROCCA, THE FOLLOWING EMERGED:

A. NEUDOERFFER ASSURED US THAT AERITALIA, THE PRIME CONTRACTOR FOR THE MIG AIRFRAME OVERHAUL PROJECT, HAS PROMISED TO FILL IN LA ROCCA

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ON PROJECT BEFORE SUBMITTING A FIRM LETTER OF OFFER TO THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE.

B. LA ROCCA HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY ALFA-ROMEO CONCERNING THE MIG-21 ENGINE OVERHAUL PROJECT AND WILL SEEK OUT AERITALIA IF HE DOES NOT HEAR FROM THEM SHORTLY.

C. NEUDOERFFER ANTICIPATED THAT AERITALIA WOULD SEND TEAM OF TECHNICIANS TO EGYPT, PROBABLY WEEK OF OCTOBER 24, TO GATHER ADDITIONAL DATA NEEDED TO DRAFT TECHNICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT. HE ESTIMATED THAT AERITALIA AND ALFA-ROMEO FORMAL CONTRACTS WOULD BE READY FOR PRESENTATION TO EGYPTIANS WITHIN 30 TO 45 DAYS OF ORIGINAL TRIP TO EGYPT.

D. ACCORDING TO NEUDOERFFER, SINCE AERITALIA IS PRIME CONTRACTOR FOR AIRFRAME OVERHAUL PROJECT, AERMACCHI WILL PROBABLY END UP IN A SUB-CONTRACTOR ROLE.

2. FROM OUR STANDPOINT IN ROME, THE MIG MAINTENANCE PROJECT APPEARS TO BE ON TRACK. HAVING KEPT LA ROCCA INFORMED ALONG THE WAY, AND HAVING

PRIMED ITALIAN COMPANIES (THROUGH LOCKHEED AND G.E.) TO BRIEF GOI THOROUGHLY BEFORE SIGNING CONTRACTS, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE FULFILLED OUR OBLIGATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON THIS MATTER.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS TELEGRAM TO CAIRO. HOLMES

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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